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The Security Council,

Recalling all its relevant resolutions including resolution 1781 of 15 October 2007 (S/RES/1781),

Welcoming the reports of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia of 23 January 2008 (S/2008/38) and 2 April 2008 (S/2008/219),

Reiterating the importance of maintaining the separation of forces and the preservation of the ceasefire,

Supporting the sustained efforts of the Secretary-General and of his Special Representative with the assistance of the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General as well as the Russian Federation in its capacity as facilitator and of the OSCE, *underlining* the increased importance of the meetings in the Geneva format as the forum for meaningful political dialogue and welcoming the Georgian and Abkhaz renewed commitment to this process,

Noting that whereas the United Nations and the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General will continue to support the process of conflict resolution between the Georgian and Abkhaz sides, the primary responsibility to make use of this support and to implement measures to advance the process, in particular measures to build confidence, remains with both sides,

Regretting the continued lack of progress in implementing confidence-building measures, and *underlining* the importance of constructive goodwill between the sides and respect for each other's concerns,

Stressing the importance of close and effective cooperation between UNOMIG and the CIS peacekeeping force as they currently play an important stabilizing role in the conflict zone, and *recalling* that a lasting and comprehensive settlement of the conflict will require appropriate security guarantees,

Stressing that economic development is urgently required in Abkhazia, Georgia, to improve the livelihoods of the communities affected by the conflict, in particular refugees and internally displaced persons,

1. *Reaffirms* the commitment of all Member States to the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders and *supports* all efforts by the United Nations and the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General, which are guided by their determination to promote a settlement of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict only by peaceful means and within the framework of the Security Council resolutions;

2. *Reaffirms* its strong support for UNOMIG, and *again urges* the parties to cooperate fully with the Mission and to actively and sustainably engage in the political process led by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General; and *welcomes* UNOMIG's continued consultations with the parties on strengthening its observation capacity;

3. *Welcomes* the recent improvements in the overall security situation; *calls on* both sides to consolidate and broaden those improvements; *underlines* the need for a period of sustained stability along the ceasefire line and in the Kodori valley; and *stresses* the necessity to keep under close observation the situation in the Upper Kodori valley which has to be in line with the Moscow agreement on ceasefire and separation of forces of 14 May 1994;

4. *Welcomes* the renewed commitment given by both sides during the meeting chaired by the United Nations in Geneva on 18 and 19 February 2008 to resume regular consultations within the Quadripartite meetings on security issues without delay, and *urges once more* both sides to fulfil finally this commitment;

5. *Expresses* its concern at any violation of the ceasefire and separation of forces regime in the Zone of Conflict;

6. *Strongly urges* all parties to consider and address seriously each other's legitimate security concerns, to refrain from any acts of violence or provocation, including political action or rhetoric, to comply fully with previous agreements regarding ceasefire and non-use of violence, and to maintain the security zone and the restricted weapons zone free of any unauthorized military activities; and in this regard *recalls* the recommendations of the Secretary-General contained in S/2007/439 and his subsequent reports;

7. *Calls on* both sides to finalize without delay the document on the non-use of violence; and *calls on* both sides to finalize without delay the document on the return of refugees and internally displaced persons;

8. *Stresses anew* the urgent need to alleviate the plight of refugees and internally displaced persons and the need for a perspective of life in security and dignity in particular for a new generation growing up outside Abkhazia, Georgia;

9. *Reiterates and reaffirms* as fundamentally important the right of return for all the refugees and the internally displaced persons to Abkhazia, Georgia, *reaffirms* the importance of such people's return to their homes and property and that individual property rights have not been affected by the fact that owners had to flee during the conflict and that the residency rights and the identity of those owners will be respected, and *calls on* both sides to implement the UNHCR's *Strategic Directions* for their return in the first instance to the Gali region;

10. *Calls upon* the parties to increase their bilateral contacts by making full use of all existing mechanisms as described in the relevant Security Council resolutions in order to come to a peaceful settlement, and to commit themselves to

fulfil within a reliable time frame the conditions necessary for the safe, dignified and swift return of refugees and internally displaced persons;

11. *Firmly convinced* that the confidence-building measures proposed by the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General and endorsed through resolution 1752 of 13 April 2007, will serve the development of broader and unbiased contacts between the communities of the divided country, *regrets* the lack of progress made with regard to confidence-building measures and *urges again* the Georgian and Abkhaz sides to implement these measures without conditions;

12. *Recalls*, with a view to achieving a lasting and comprehensive settlement, its support for the principles contained in the "Paper on Basic Principles for the Distribution of Competencies between Tbilisi and Sukhumi", and *welcomes* additional ideas that the sides would be willing to offer with a view to conducting creatively and constructively a political dialogue under the aegis of the United Nations;

13. *Welcomes* existing and *encourages* further contacts between representatives of civil society, and *appeals* to both sides to continue to promote without reservation the active engagement of citizens and officials in such contacts;

14. *Underlines* that it is the primary responsibility of both sides to provide appropriate security and to ensure the freedom of movement throughout the zone of conflict of UNOMIG, the CIS peacekeeping force and other international personnel and *calls on* both sides to fulfil their obligations in this regard and to extend full cooperation to UNOMIG and the CIS peacekeeping force;

15. *Welcomes* the efforts being undertaken by UNOMIG to implement the Secretary-General's zero tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to ensure full compliance of its personnel with the United Nations code of conduct, *requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take all necessary action in this regard and to keep the Security Council informed, and *urges* troop-contributing countries to take appropriate preventive action including the conduct of predeployment awareness training, and to take disciplinary action and other action to ensure full accountability in cases of such conduct involving their personnel;

16. *Decides* to extend the mandate of UNOMIG for a new period terminating on 15 October 2008;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make use of this mandate in order to encourage and support the parties in implementing measures to build confidence and to establish an intensive and meaningful dialogue, with a view to achieve a lasting and comprehensive settlement, including the facilitation of a meeting at the highest level, and to inform the Council in his next report on the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia, on progress made in this respect;

18. *Strongly supports* the efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and *encourages* the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General to continue giving him their steadfast and unified support;

19. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.